

**BEN YSURSA  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

sosinfo@idsos.state.id.us  
www.idsos.state.id.us



700 West Jefferson  
PO Box 83720  
Boise ID 83720-0080

Phone: (208) 334 – 2300

Fax:  
Business Entities (208) 334 – 2080  
UCC (208) 334 – 2847  
All other divisions (208) 334 – 2282

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2005  
**Topic:** Accessible Voting System Certification Hearing  
**Contact:** Jim Mairs, HAVA Coordinator. 334-2852. [jmairs@idsos.state.id.us](mailto:jmairs@idsos.state.id.us)

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**For Immediate Release.**

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### **NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION HEARING**

You are invited to attend a certification hearing for a voting system that will be conducted by my office in Boise.

**Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
8:30 AM – 4PM,**

**Joe R. Williams Building  
700 West State Street, Boise, Idaho  
West Conference Room, 1st floor.**

As you may know the Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires that an accessible voting machine be made available in every precinct in the state by the first federal election after January 1, 2006. This hearing will evaluate an accessible voting system, the AutoMARK, offered by Election Systems and Software. The AutoMARK does not store votes but rather marks an optical scan ballot to produce a voter verifiable paper trail. Tabulation is accomplished with optical scan readers similar to the devices currently used in fourteen counties in the state.

Members of the disability community, county clerks, press and the public are invited to attend.

The purpose of this hearing is to determine the accessibility and usability of the AutoMARK, which is the initial step in providing a certified accessible voting system for the citizens of Idaho.

**Note:** The Secretary of State and representatives from his office will be available for questions from 11:30 -12 noon.

This is an open meeting and the public is invited to attend and complete an exit survey on the accessibility and usability of the voting system.

The public is invited to use the system from 10:30 -12 noon, and from 2 - 3 PM.